

**MARVEL**

**2**

**HOPELESS  
HEPBURN  
FABELA**

**REVENGE OF THE**

**COSMIC  
GHOST**

**RIDER**

HotComic.net

FRANK CASTLE HAS BEEN TO HELL AND BACK. HE'S BEEN THE PUNISHER, A GHOST RIDER, A HERALD OF GALACTUS, THE BLACK RIGHT HAND OF THANOS AND EVEN (FOR A MINUTE) A GUARDIAN OF THE GALAXY. BUT NOW, FRANK IS GETTING BACK TO HIS ROOTS, RIDING THROUGH THE COSMOS, SEEKING THOSE THAT DESERVE PUNISHMENT!

# REVENGE OF THE COSMIC GHOST RIDER

PART 2 OF 5

AFTER AN EXPLOSIVE ENCOUNTER ABOARD AN INTERGALACTIC PRISON, FRANK IS FOUND BY A GROUP OF MURDEROUS PIRATES. HE DESTROYS THEIR SHIP AND KILLS ALL BUT ONE CREW MEMBER – CAMMI BENALLY – AN INNOCENT HUMAN WITH A MORAL COMPASS. BUT SHE WARNS FRANK THAT HE'D MADE HIMSELF AN ENEMY OF THE COSMIC KING, A RUTHLESS INTERGALACTIC CRIME LORD. AND NOW THE COSMIC KING WANTS THE ONE THING THAT COULD HURT THE IMMORTAL COSMIC GHOST RIDER... HIS MORTAL SOUL!



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HOTEL INFERNO.  
LAS VEGAS, EARTH.

PERSUASIVE  
=COFF= AS  
ALWAYS.

EVERYTHING  
IN THIS UNIVERSE  
HAS A PRICE.

EVEN A  
FORMER  
KING OF HELL  
LIKE YOU,  
**MEPHISTO**.

MY, HOW  
THE MIGHTY  
HAVE FALLEN.  
IMPRISONED ON  
EARTH, AND IN  
A HOTEL OF  
ALL THINGS...  
PATHETIC.

THAT MUCH IS  
CERTAINLY TRUE, BUT  
AS I MENTIONED  
BEFORE--

--REPEATEDLY--

--PANDEMONIUM  
CONTRACT LAW ISN'T  
QUITE AS FLEXIBLE  
AS ME.

KEEP YOUR  
CONTRACT.

YOU'RE NOT  
LISTENING!

TIME IS FLUID  
IN HELL, BUT YOU  
CAN'T TAKE IT  
WITH YOU.

I DON'T EVEN  
HAVE CASTLE'S  
SOUL YET WHERE  
YOU'RE GOING.

YOU'RE  
RIGHT,  
DEMON--

# THE COSMIC KING'S SHIP.



--I'M NOT LISTENING.

BOSSSS?



THERE YOU ARE, BOSSSS.

BEEN LOOKING.

THERE'S, UH... SOME UGLY BUSINESS DOWN ON ONE OF THE DRUG MINES.



WHERE?

HRRRK!

SPICE FIELDS OF KANDA...



SHOW ME.

WEIRD FIRE-HEAD GUY...

...DROVE DOWN AND STARTED KILLING FOOLS.

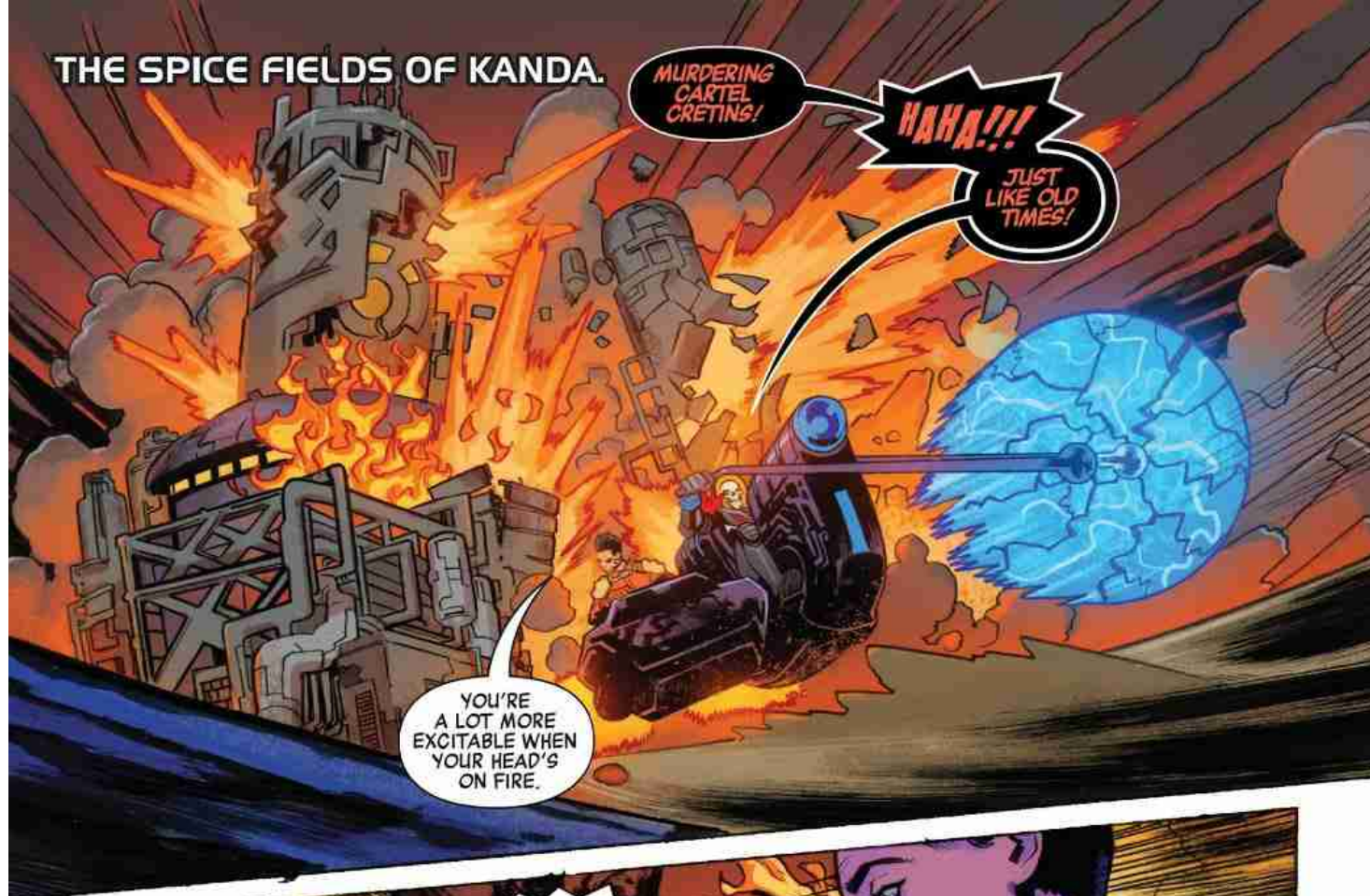


THINK IT MIGHT BE...

...THAT HUMAN YOU TALKED ABOUT...



# THE SPICE FIELDS OF KANDA.



YOU'RE  
A LOT MORE  
EXCITABLE WHEN  
YOUR HEAD'S  
ON FIRE.

MURDERING  
CARTEL  
CRETINS!

HAHA!!!

JUST  
LIKE OLD  
TIMES!



GAAAAAH!

ISN'T  
EVERYONE?

HEH. I  
SUPPOSE  
SO.



YOU'RE NOT  
WRONG THOUGH.

STAY THIS WAY  
TOO LONG A STRETCH,  
HELLFIRE OVERCOOKS  
MY NOODLE.

FLIP SIDE  
IS--



--I GET  
A LITTLE  
JOY OUT OF  
LIFE.

ALL-BEEF  
FRANK  
DON'T LOVE  
NOTHING.



KILLING'S  
JUST A MEANS  
TO HIS END.

RIDER,  
TROUBLE  
ON OUR  
SIX.



TWO MORE  
SPICE TURBINES  
COMING IN  
HOT.

I GOT IT  
COVERED.

**BWOM**



CAMMI,  
NO.

CAMMI,  
YES!

WE  
TALKED  
ABOUT  
THIS.

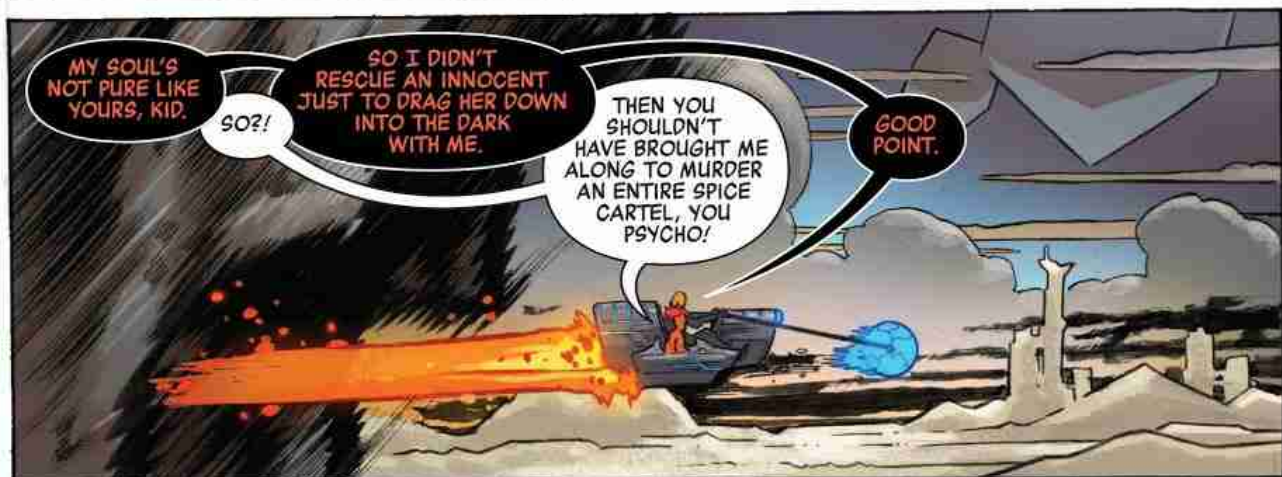


YOU  
TALKED ABOUT  
THIS, MAYBE.

NO  
KILLING.

THERE'RE  
ONLY FOUR GUYS  
RUNNING THAT  
TURBINE!

YOU KILLED A  
THOUSAND LIKE FIVE  
SECONDS AGO!



MY SOUL'S  
NOT PURE LIKE  
YOURS, KID.

SO?!

SO I DIDN'T  
RESCUE AN INNOCENT  
JUST TO DRAG HER DOWN  
INTO THE DARK  
WITH ME.

THEN YOU  
SHOULDN'T  
HAVE BROUGHT ME  
ALONG TO MURDER  
AN ENTIRE SPICE  
CARTEL, YOU  
PSYCHO!

GOOD  
POINT.



## THE TRENCH OF NATAL LAX.





HE'S  
KILLING  
EVERYONE,  
KING!

NOTHING  
STOPS HIM.



AND  
NOTHING  
WILL.

WHAT?!

YOU  
HAVE BEEN A  
GOOD CAPTAIN,  
BAKOAR.

MADE US  
BOTH VERY  
RICH. THANK  
YOU FOR  
THAT.

THANK  
ME?! WHAT  
ARE YOU  
TALKING  
ABOUT?!

WHO IS THIS  
MONSTER?!



I COULD  
TELL YOU,  
BUT WHAT  
WOULD IT  
MATTER?

YOU'RE  
ALREADY--



--DEAD.

HRRRGGLL!



OH, I'M  
SORRY, DID I  
INTERRUPT?

NO FINER DINER.  
DELTA QUADRANT.

YOU KNOW,  
YOU'RE PRETTY  
GREAT AT THIS,  
CAMMI.

GONNA  
HAVE TO  
NARROW  
IT DOWN,  
FRANK...

...I'M GREAT  
AT A LOT OF  
THINGS.

SCOUTING.  
BATTLE PLANNING.  
WORKING THAT  
STAR MAP.

ALL  
OF IT.

COULDN'T  
HAVE  
PUNISHED  
HALF THIS  
MANY FOOLS  
IN SUCH A  
SHORT TIME  
WITHOUT  
YOU.

AND THIS DINER  
HERE MIGHT BE  
YOUR CROWNING  
ACHIEVEMENT.

NOBODY MAKES A  
BURGER THIS GOOD  
IN SPACE.

I'VE  
LOOKED.

FRANK, DON'T TURN  
AROUND, BUT SEVEN OF  
COSMIC KING'S ASSASSINS  
JUST WALKED IN.

THAT  
RIGHT?

THE THREE  
ON MY LEFT  
ARE DIE HARD.  
THAT'S ALL  
YOU.

I'LL SOFTEN  
UP THE  
HUMANOIDS.

STAN'S SOAPBOX  
FEBRUARY 1980

## STAN'S SOAPBOX

Bear with me, gang. It's philosophy time again! I was having a discussion the other day with a professor pal of mine from U.C.L.A. about the so-called "generation gap," and I laid a few personal opinions on him that I'd like to share with you.

First, we're never gonna solve the generation gap till we stop seeking the wrong answers to the wrong questions. Every one yaps about young people being "different" nowadays. Forget it! Human nature doesn't change. It's the human condition that changes—it's the environment! What's happened to us is, the world has been wildly changing, producing new sets of rules each time you blink your eye. It's the social climate that's been changing, not you 'n me, Bunky!

Here, this'll show what I mean. Say you've got two homes, a large country estate and a small city apartment. You play your stereo full blast on your estate, but who cares? No one can hear it. You're not disturbing anyone. But play it just as loud in your small apartment with the paper thin walls and your neighbors wanna clobber you! You haven't changed. You're the same yoyo in both places. But the conditions are different!

The fact is, young people are the same as ever, the same noisy, scroungy, mangy, nutty, wonderful crazies they've always been — and adults are still the same grouchy, grunchy, goopy, hard-pressed and harassed heroes they've always been — and which you'll soon become! Nothing's changed but the labels. Which leads to point #2 —

None of us is all that different from each other. We all want essentially the same things outta life — a measure of security, some fun, some romance, friendship, and the respect of our contemporaries. That goes for Indians, Chinese, Russians, Jews, Arabs, Catholics, Protestants, blacks, browns, whites, and green-skinned Hulks. So why don't we all stop wasting time hating the "other" guys. Just look in the mirror, mister — that other guy is you!

Excelsior!

Stan



STAN LEE  
FOREVER

- ❑ MARVEL TWO-IN-ONE #80 — We're keeping the secret of this story under our hats, but it stars the Thing and the Impossible Man! 'Nuff said?
- ❑ SHOGUN WARRIORS #13 — The Shoguns face the villainy of Doctor Demonicus!
- ❑ SPIDER-WOMAN #23 — Spider-Man is caught in the master plan of the Gamasman!
- ❑ ROM, SPACEKNIGHT #3 — The Coming of — FIREFALL!
- ❑ MACHINE MAN #13 — Machine Man vs. The Mysterious Crime Lord (Kull Khan).
- ❑ SPIDER-MAN #301 — The Punisher stalks Peter Parker!
- ❑ CAPTAIN AMERICA #242 — Dep't caught up in the mind-bending plot of the Manipulator?
- ❑ THOR #282 — Thor journeys to strange dimension to seek the lost of Odin!
- ❑ MICRONAUTS #14 — Bug returns to his native planet, Kalkite, and leads rebellion against his oldest foe WARTSTAFF!
- ❑ DR. STRANGE #39 — While Dr. Strange goes to Paris and the minions of Baron Mordo!
- ❑ GHOST RIDER #41 — Reborn memory, Johnny Blaze is within the demon within him!
- ❑ FUN & GAMES #8 — Puzzles, Games, Outrageous fun!
- ❑ BATTLESTAR GALACTICA — More adventures of the Galactica Scavenger World. Will Starbuck find there forever?
- ❑ HULK #244 — Hulk vs. the Colossus in "It Lived!"
- ❑ AVENGERS #102 — The Colossus Infernal! He was born in the blast furnace! And he lives to...
- ❑ CONAN #107 — More sword and sorcery action with the barbarian of all!
- ❑ MARVEL TALES #112 — Amazing Spider-Man #135. Man and the Patriarch!
- ❑ X-MEN #130 — (Introduces DAZZLER! Soon to star Marvel series)
- ❑ POWERMAN AND IRON FIST — Thunderbolt returns! Mr. Mark's attack! And just what is Luke Cage's grave?
- ❑ FANTASTIC FOUR #21 — Turn of Starline the War!
- ❑ MARVEL TEAM-UP #3 — Man and the Giant! The Modular Man and the...

HE STRIKES FROM  
OUTER SPACE--

THREE MINUTES LATER.

YOU COULDN'T LET ME SHOOT ONE GUY? NOT ONE?

I SUPPOSE I COULD'VE.

HAD TO KILL EVERY MURDEROUS ONE OF THEM YOURSELF. AGAIN.

THAT'S WHAT I DO, CAMMI.

BUT HEY, I BROUGHT YOU A DOGGIE BAG.

YOU SUCK.

CHOCK-FULL OF THOSE CRACK FRIES.

WHAT'S NEXT?

HOPEFULLY YOU DIE COLD AND ALONE.

TIME WILL TELL.

HEY, KING, IT'S BOSCO.

THINK I'VE GOT A BEAD ON YOUR GHOST RIDER.



# PLANETSIDE.

WHY'S THE  
SKY ON FIRE,  
MOMMA?

JUST RUN,  
SWEETHEART!

GAAAAH!

KROOOSH

WHAT IS  
HAPPENING?

THE  
BLOCKADE...  
IT'S BURNING  
UP.

WHY?

BECAUSE THE  
GODS ARE GOOD,  
MY SWEET.

THEY'VE  
HEARD OUR  
PRAYERS--





FRANK  
THINKS I'M  
SO PURE.

LIKE  
EARTH GIRLS  
ARE MADE OUT  
OF CANDY AND  
BUBBLEGUM.



BUT I  
AM NOT  
PURE.



I  
SURVIVED THE  
ANNIHILATION  
WAVE AT 10  
YEARS OLD.

I WON  
A DAMNED  
DEATH MATCH  
AT 14.

I'M  
CAMMI @#%  
BENALLY.



AND IT'S  
MY TURN  
TO PUNISH  
SOMEBODY.



RABEARD  
BLOCKADE  
FRIGATE.

HE'S EATING  
US ALIVE,  
KING!

GET HERE QUICK OR  
THERE'LL BE NOTHING  
LEFT TO SAVE!

YOU  
MISTAKE MY  
INTENTIONS,  
CAPTAIN.

MINE IS  
NOT A RESCUE  
MISSION.



IF YOU  
WANT TO BE  
SAVED...

TOOOM

...SAVE  
YOURSELF.



SO I SPENT  
TWO AND A  
HALF CYCLES ON  
A GARDENIAN  
LABOR  
FARM...

...WORKING  
OFF SOME  
GAMBLING  
DEBT...

MY BUNKMATE  
MARLA NEVER COULD  
SLEEP THROUGH THE NIGHT  
ON ACCOUNT OF SOME  
RABEARD FRIGATE CAPTAIN  
AND WHAT HE USED  
TO DO TO HER...

NOW, I  
HAVE NO WAY OF  
KNOWING IF YOU'RE  
THE EXACT SAME  
RABEARD FRIGATE  
CAPTAIN--



WHAT?!

--BUT  
CLOSE ENOUGH  
IS CLOSE  
ENOUGH.





LEAVE ME CHAINED TO THE SIDECAR! LIKE SOME KIND OF PUPPY!

SO OBSESSED WITH MY SUPPOSEDLY SPOTLESS SOUL, WHEN YOUR OWN UNDEAD MURDER GOBLIN SOUL--



--HAS TO BE A FESTERING GANGRENOUS PUS BALL.



AND BY THE WAY, YOUR WHOLE PLAN? YOUR WHOLE MISSION? IS NONSENSE.



PUNISHING INTERGALACTIC EVIL. PROTECTING MY INNOCENCE.

NONE OF IT MAKES ANY DIFFERENCE.



YOU'RE THE PUNISHER. YOU'LL ALWAYS BE THE PUNISHER!

THERE'S NO COMING BACK FROM THAT, FRANK.



THINK I DON'T KNOW THAT, KID?



CONTRACT I SIGNED SAYS AS MUCH.

I CAN'T EVER ATONE. CAN'T MAKE AMENDS.



DON'T EVEN GET TO BURN FOR MY SINS. MUCH AS I DESERVE IT.



I SOLD MY SOUL FOR A FEW MORE PULLS OF THE TRIGGER.

HAVING NO IDEA WHAT FOREVER REALLY MEANT.



AND AFTER 1,000 YEARS OF OBSESSIVELY PUNISHING THE GUILTY, ONLY THING I CAN TELL YOU FOR SURE...

TRUE INNOCENCE IS RARE.

AND REAL DAMNED DELICATE.

HEH HEH HEH...





NOTHING  
FUNNIER THAN A  
MONSTER TRYING  
TO HIDE HIS  
FANGS.

WHO'S  
HIDING,  
COSMIC  
KING?



FANGS  
ARE RIGHT  
HERE!





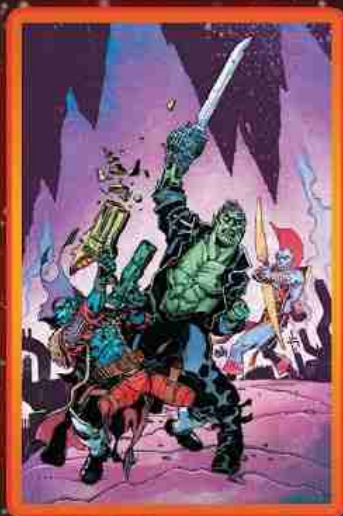
**NEXT:** SOLAR SYSTEMS WILL SHAKE AND ALL-NEW SECRETS OF THE COSMIC GHOST RIDER'S ORIGIN WILL BE REVEALED AS HE GOES TOE-TO-TOE WITH THE COSMIC KINGPIN!



**GUARDIANS OF THE GALAXY #1**  
ON SALE NEXT WEEK.



**YONDU #5**



**NEBULA #1**



